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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,883	03/19/2004	Rene J. Valdes	M61.12-0609	8207
27366 7590 12/20/2007 WESTMAN CHAMPLIN (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) SUITE 1400 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3319			EXAMINER RIDER, JUSTIN W	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/20/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,883

Applicant(s)

VALDES ET AL.

Examiner

Justin W. Rider

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20-26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

1. In response to the Office Action mailed 06 July 2007, applicant submitted a response filed 09 October 2007, in which the applicant amended claims 15-16 and 18-19 without adding new matter. Applicant added claims 22-26 which correspond to claims 15-19 in the form of a tangible computer storage medium.

Response to Arguments

2. The examiner acknowledges applicant's election of group II.

As a result of amendments, the examiner thanks applicant and withdraws all 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections.

Applicant's arguments filed 09 October 2007 regarding claims 15-19 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding applicant's remarks with respect to independent claim 15 on pages 6 and 7 of Remarks, the examiner has considered them and respectfully disagrees with applicant's assertion of **Goni** failing to teach the claimed invention. As with applicant's invention, the inventive concept of **Goni** is the ability to deal with the many complications arising from verb conjugation in certain languages (e.g. Spanish) in a quick and efficient manner. Section 3.2 (pages 325-327) of **Goni** shows multiple possible entries of the term *doctor* (Fig. 4) followed by an explanation of annotations (e.g. n, w1, masc). Applicant asserts that **Goni** fails to disclose, 'defining, for a segment, final segment data indicative of whether the segment must appear in a final position of any verb-clitic words formed using the segment.' The examiner is essentially interpreting the above to be defining and tagging suffix information (e.g. case endings that form the conjugation of verbs) with respect to verb-clitic

forms of words. The examiner points to section '5.5.2 The stochastic tagger' on pages 339-340 of **Goni**. This section deals with the splitting and tokenization of verbs and clitic pronouns and suffixes. Additionally, **Goni** states (page 340), 'The modifications made to the Xerox Tagger in order to adapt it to Spanish have to do mainly with suffix handling and processing of clitic pronouns.' (Emphasis added)

Applicant's arguments, see pages 8-9, filed 09 October 2007, with respect to claims 20-21 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of 06 July 2007 have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 15-19 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Goni et al., 'ARIES: A lexical platform for engineering Spanish processing tools', Natural Language Engineering 3(4), pg. 317-345, Cambridge University Press, 1997** referred to as **Goni** hereinafter.

Claims 15 and 22: **Goni** discloses a method and tangible computer storage medium for annotating verb-clitic form segments in a lexicon, comprising:

i. defining, for a segment (p. 336, 'patterns'), final segment data indicative of whether the segment must appear in a final position of any verb-clitic words formed using the segment (p.

327, Section 3.3, *'and the fourth rule validates as words the singular forms (wl) obtained from the first rule without further concatenation.'* p. 336, Section 5.1, *'zar\$/, etc... '*); and

- ii. annotating the segment using the defined final segment data (p. 340, Section 5.5.2).

Claims 16 and 23: **Goni** discloses a method and tangible computer storage medium as per claim 15 above, further comprising

- i. defining, for the segment, segment association data indicative of valid combinations of the segment with other types of segments to form verb-clitic words (p. 336, Section 5.1, *'Thus, verbs in the conjugation model 2 have two allomorphs: the first one is regular (stripping the -ar ending), and the second one changes from z to c for some inflected forms, depending on the first character of the morpheme to be added'*¹⁸. In contrast, verbs belonging to the 3a model present four allomorphs: the first is the regular one, and the last three ones account for vowel changes in the stem, such as diphthongation or marked diacritical stress, whether combined with the /z/ to /c/ spelling change or not. '); and

- ii. annotating the segment using the segment association data (p. 340, Section 5.5.2).

Claims 17 and 24: **Goni** discloses a method and tangible computer storage medium as per claim 16 above, wherein the segment is a clitic form segment, and wherein the step of defining segment association data (p. 336, Section 5.1, {v("3a"); continue}, etc...) further comprises defining the segment association data such that it is indicative of classes (models) of clitic hosts variants to which the clitic form segment can appropriately be attached (p. 336, Section 5.1, *'Thus, verbs in the conjugation model 2 have two allomorphs... '*).

Claims 18 and 25: **Goni** discloses a method and tangible computer storage medium as per claim 16 above, wherein:

i. the segment is a clitic pair form segment, the method further comprising defining, for the segment, word break data indicative of a word break location in the clitic pair form segment (p. 340, Section 5.5.2, '*If it is not, but the token can be split into a verb form plus some clitic pronouns, ')* ; and

ii. annotating the segment using the word break data (p. 340, Section 5.5.2).

Claims 19 and 26: **Goni** discloses a method and tangible computer storage medium as per claim 16 above, wherein:

i. the segment is a clitic host variant, the method further comprising defining, for the segment, verification data indicative of whether the clitic host variant must be combined with a clitic segment to form a valid word (p. 325, Table 1 discloses a labeling convention used in modeling verbs in which numbers are assigned to indicate variant forms necessary for each situation); and

ii. annotating the segment using the verification data (p. 340, Section 5.5.2).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 20-21 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: **Goni** and **Grimshaw** fails to specifically disclose, alone or in combination determining whether absence of final segment data associated with the first verb-clitic form segment indicates that the first verb-clitic form segment cannot be a final segment of the verb-clitic word; determining whether final segment data associated with the second verb-clitic form segment indicates that the second verb-clitic form segment must be the final segment of the verb-clitic word; and combining the first and second verb-clitic form segments from the

lexicon to form the verb-clitic word only if it is determined that the first verb-clitic form segment cannot be the final segment and that the second verb-clitic form segment must be the final segment.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin W. Rider whose telephone number is (571) 270-1068. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30AM - 5:00PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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J.W.R.
11 December 2007



DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600